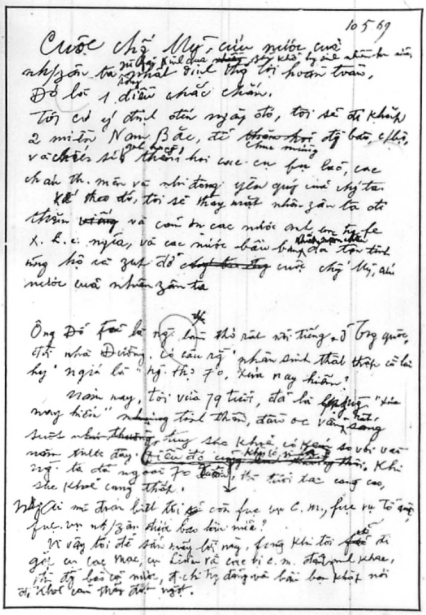
STATE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S TESTAMENT

VIETNAM COURIER

6th Year No 234 September 15, 1969



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OUR people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation, may have to go through even more difficulties and sacrifices, but we are bound to win total victory.

This is a certainty.

I intend, when that comes, to tour both North and South to congratulate our heroic compatriots, cadres and combatants, and visit old people and our beloved youth and children.

Then, on behalf of our people, I will go to the fraternal countries of the socialist camp and friendly countries in the world, and thank them for their wholehearted support and assistance to our people's patriotic struggle against US aggression.

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Tu Fu, the well-known Chinese poet of the T'ang period, wrote : "Few have ever reached the age of seventy."

This year, being seventy-nine, I count among those "few"; still, my mind has remained very lucid, though my health has somewhat declined in comparison with previous years. When one is on the wrong side of seventy, health deteriorates with age. This is no wonder.

But who can say how longer I shall be able to serve the revolution, the Fatherland and the people ?

I therefore leave these few lines in anticipation of the day when I shall go and join Karl Marx, V.I. Lenin and other elder revolutionaries ; this way, our people throughout the country, our comrades in the Party, and our friends in the world will not be taken by surprise.

FIRST ABOUT THE PARTY : Thanks to its close unity and total dedication to the working class, the people and the Fatherland, our Party has been able, since its founding, to unite, organize and lead our people from success to success in a resolute struggle.

Unity is an extremely precious tradition of our Party and people. All comrades, from the Central Committee down to the cell, must preserve the unity and oneness of mind in the Party as the apple of their eyes.

Within the Party, to achieve broad democracy and to practise self-criticism and criticism regularly and seriously is the best way to consolidate and further solidarity and unity. Comradely affection should prevail.

Ours is a Party in power. Each Party member, each cadre must be deeply imbued with revolutionary morality, and show industry, thrift, integrity, uprightness, total dedication to public interests and complete selflessness. Our Party should preserve absolute purity and prove worthy of its role as leader and very loyal servant of the people.

THE WORKING YOUTH UNION MEMBERS AND OUR YOUNG PEOPLE on the whole are excellent ; they are always ready to come forward, fearless of difficulties and eager for progress. The Party must foster their revolutionary virtues and train them into our successors both "red" and "expert", in the building of socialism.

Training and educating future revolutionary generations is of great importance and necessity.

OUR LABOURING PEOPLE, in the plains as in the mountain areas, have for ages endured hardships, feudal and colonial oppression and exploitation ; they have moreover experienced many years of war.

Yet, our people have shown great heroism, courage, enthusiasm, and industriousness. They have always followed the Party since it came into being, with unqualified loyalty.

The Party must work out a very effective plan for economic and cultural development to ceaselessly raise the living standard of the people.

THE RESISTANCE WAR AGAINST US AGGRESSION may drag on. Our compatriots may have to face new sacrifices in property and life. Whatever may happen, we must keep firm our resolve to fight the US aggressors till total victory.

Our rivers, our mountains, our people will always be ;
The American aggressors defeated, we will build a country ten times more beautiful.

Whatever difficulties and hardships ahead, our people are sure of total triumph. The US imperialists shall have to quit. Our Fatherland shall be reunified. Our compatriots in the North and in the South shall be re-united under the same roof. We, a small nation, will have earned the signal honour of defeating, through a heroic struggle, two big imperialisms — the French and the American — and making a worthy contribution to the national liberation movement.

ABOUT THE WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT : Having devoted my whole life to the revolution, I am as proud of the growth of the international communist and workers' movement as grieved at the dissensions now dividing the fraternal parties.

I hope that our Party will do its best to contribute effectively to the restoration of unity among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism — Leninism and proletarian internationalism, in a way which conforms to both reason and sentiment.

I am sure that the fraternal parties and countries will have to unite again.

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ABOUT PERSONAL MATTERS : All my life, I have served the Fatherland, the revolution and the people with all my heart and strength. If I should now depart from this world, I would regret nothing, except not being able to serve longer and more.

When I am gone, grand funerals should be avoided in order not to waste the people's time and money.

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Finally, to the whole people, the whole Party, the whole army, to my nephews and nieces, the youth and children, I leave my boundless love.

I also convey my cordial greetings to our comrades and friends, to the youth and children in the world.

My ultimate wish is that our whole Party and people, closely joining their efforts, build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and prosperous Viet Nam, and make a worthy contribution to the world revolution.

HO CHI MINH

Foreign Delegations and Personalities

— National delegation of the Kingdom of Cambodia led by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk.

— Delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by A.N. Kosygin, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

— Delegation of the Chinese Party and Government led by Li Hsien-nien, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Vice-Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

— Delegation of the Korean Party and Government led by Choi Yong Kun, member of the Presidium of the Political Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of Korea.

— Delegation of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front, led by Prince Souphanouvong.

— Delegation of the GDR Party and Government led by Erich Muckenberger, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

— Delegation of the French Communist Party led by Francois Billoux, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee.

— Delegation of the Cuban Party and Government led by Major Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, Vice-Minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

— Delegation of the Rumanian Communist Party and Government led by Ion Gheorghe Maurer, member of the Standing Presidium of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party, Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

— Delegation of the Albanian Party and Government led by Rita Marko, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour, Vice-President of the Presidium of the National Assembly of the PRA.

— Delegation of the Polish Party and Government led by Loga Sowinski, member of the Political Bureau of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee, Vice-President of the State Council of the PPR.

— Delegation of the Hungarian Party and Government led by Lajos Feher, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Workers' and Peasants' Government.

— Delegation of the Bulgarian Party and Government led by Zhivko Zhivkov, member of the Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRB.

— Delegation of the Czechoslovak Party and Government led by Petr Colotka, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and Premier of the Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic.

— Delegation of the Mongolian Party and Government led by D. Molomjants, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

— Sanzo Nosaka, Chairman of the Communist Party of Japan, representing the Communist Party of Japan.

— Delegation of the Italian Communist Party led by R. Berlinguer, Assistant-Secretary General of the Italian Communist Party.

— Gus Hall, Secretary General of the Communist Party of the United States, representing the Communist Party of the United States.

— John Gollan, Secretary General of the British Communist Party, representing the British Communist Party.

— Paul Verges, Secretary General of the Reunion Communist Party, representing the Reunion Communist Party.

— Delegation of the Communist Party of Thailand.

— Delegation of the Communist Party of Indonesia.

— Delegation of the Committee for Alliance of Patriotic Neutralist Forces of Laos led by Khamsouk Keola.

— Delegation of the Government of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic led by Kaid Ahmed, member of the Revolutionary Council and responsible of the NFL Party.

— Delegation of the Government of the Arab Republic of Syria led by Habib Haddad, member of the Political Bureau of the Syrian Baath Party, President of the Syrian Committee of Solidarity with Afro-Asian Peoples.

— El Nur Ali Suleiman, representing the President of the National Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Sudan.

— Delegation of the Government of the Republic of Congo (B) represented by Ernest Claude N'dalla, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Congo (B) to the DRVN.

— Jean Sainteny, member of the Constitutional Council of the French Republic, ex minister, representative of President George Pompidou and of the French Government.

— Delegation of the Yugoslavian Government led by Pavisevic, Vice-premier of Yugoslavia.

— Delegation of the United Arab Republic Government led by Kamal Rifat, Minister of Labour.

— Delegation of the Indian Government led by Dinesh Singh, Minister for External Affairs.

— Orzan Berno, representative of the Kingdom of Sweden.

— Delegation of the Pakistani Government led by K.M.Kaiser, Ambassador.

— Salim, representative of the Tanzanian President.

— Delegation of the Indonesian Government led by Boediardjo, Minister of Information.

— Yaya Diara, envoy of the Malian President.

— Ansou Kamano, envoy of the Guinean President.

— Mohamed Aldaliahi Ould Kharchy, envoy of the Mauritanian President.

— Pridi Banomyong, ex-regent of Thailand.

— H.Y. Youssef, representing the movement of armed struggle of the Palestinean people.

South Viet Nam Delegations

MEMBER LIST OF THE GENERAL DELEGATION

(Appointed by joint decision of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and the Advisory Council to the Government)

— Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee, President of the Advisory Council to the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam Association of Pious and Patriotic Catholics;

— Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, Vice-President of the Advisory Council to the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Superior Bonze Thich Don Hau, Vice-Chairman of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee, and member of the Advisory Council to the Government;

— Mme Nguyen Dinh Chi, Vice-Chairman of the Hue Committee of the VNANDPF, member of the Advisory Council to the Government, Vice-President of the Thua Thien Hue People's Revolutionary Committee;

— Nguyen Doa, Vice-President of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government;

— Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, Secretary General of the South Viet Nam Radical Socialist Party;

— Nguyen Van Linh, Deputy Secretary General of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee;

— Truong Cong Thuan, member of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee;

— Nguyen Minh Chau, a high-ranking cadre of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces;

— Miss Kan Lich, Heroine of the South Viet Nam PLAF;

— Nguyen Minh Tua, Hero of the South Viet Nam PLAF and

— Mme Nguyen Thi Thanh Loan, member of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union.

OTHER SOUTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATIONS

1 — Delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (14 members) led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho.

2 — Delegation of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces (8 members) led by Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao.

3 — Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam (5 members) led by Nguyen Doa.

4 — Delegation of the Viet Nam People's Revolutionary Party (7 members) led by Nguyen Van Linh.

5 — Delegation of the Minority Nationalities (16 members) led by Ibih Aleo.

6 — Delegation of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces (14 members) led by Nguyen Minh Chau.

LET OUR ENTIRE PARTY, ARMY AND PEOPLE VALIANTLY MARCH FORWARD, REALIZE PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S IDEAL, COMPLETELY DEFEAT THE US AGGRESSORS, LIBERATE THE SOUTH, SUCCESSFULLY BUILD SOCIALISM IN THE NORTH, REUNIFY THE FATHERLAND, BUILD UP A PEACEFUL, UNIFIED, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, PROSPEROUS AND POWERFUL VIET NAM!

Comrades LE DUAN, First Secretary of the CC of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, TON DUC THANG, CC member, Vice-President of the DRVN and President of the Presidium of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (front row, left to right), *TRUONG CHINH, Political Bureau member, President of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and PHAM VAN DONG, Political Bureau member, Prime Minister* (second row, left to right) *keeping vigil around President HO CHI MINH's coffin.*

FUNERAL ORATION

OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE VIET NAM WORKERS' PARTY

— Read by LE DUAN, First Secretary, at the solemn ceremony in memory of President HO CHI MINH in Hanoi on the morning of September 9, 1969 —

Compatriots and combatants throughout the country,

Comrades and friends,

OUR beloved and venerated President HO CHI MINH is no more!

This is a tremendous loss! Boundless is our grief!

Our people and Party have lost a leader of genius and a great teacher.

The international communist movement, the national liberation movement and all progressive mankind have lost a prominent fighter, a staunch comrade-in-arms so dear to all.

Our compatriots and combatants in the whole country mourn for him in boundless grief! Our brothers and friends all over the world share our deep sorrow.

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For over sixty years, from his youth to his last moment President HO CHI MINH dedicated his whole life to the revolutionary cause of our people and of the world's peoples. His was a glorious life, full of hardships and sacrifices, extremely lofty and rich, infinitely pure and beautiful.

With his ardent patriotism, President HO CHI MINH soon came to Marxism-Leninism, in which he found the light showing the path to national salvation. He was the first Vietnamese to creatively apply Marxism-Leninism to the conditions of our country, and to chart the course for the Vietnamese revolution to advance step by step, from victory to victory.

President HO CHI MINH was the founder, leader, and educator of our Party, the builder of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the national united front, the beloved father of the Vietnamese people's armed forces. He was the soul, the brilliant banner that led our entire Party, our entire people, our entire army to unite as one man in a gallant struggle and to write the most glorious pages in the history of our Fatherland.

Our nation, our people and our land have given birth to President HO CHI MINH, the great national hero, who, in turn, has covered them with glory.

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He personifies the quintessence of the Vietnamese nation, he is a symbol of the staunch, indomitable will shown by the Vietnamese people throughout four thousand years of history. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom." "We would rather endure any sacrifice than lose independence and be slaves." Such is the pressing patriotic call of the Fatherland at this moment, the behest of our forefathers from time immemorial our sacred duty to all future generations He said: "Viet Nam is one country, the Vietnamese are one nation." "The South is the blood of Vietnamese blood, the flesh of Vietnamese flesh." In his lifetime, he always followed closely every step of the revolution for the liberation of the South; day and night he thought of our southern compatriots and combatants with boundless love.

Parting from him for ever, we vow:

For ever to carry aloft the banner of national independence, be resolved to fight and defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North, and reunify the country in fulfilment of his wish.

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The most cherished desire of President HO CHI MINH was to see the Fatherland liberated, and the people happy. He said: "I have only one desire, a most earnest desire — to achieve complete independence for our country, complete freedom for our people, and opportunities for all our compatriots to have adequate food and clothing, and education."

(Continued page 4)

STATE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

FUNERAL ORATION...

(Continued from page 3)

He also said: "The North must advance to socialism."

During his lifetime, he gave all his warm kindness to his people, young and old, men and women and children, in the North and in the South, in the plains and in the mountains. Departing from this world, he "left boundless love to the whole people, the whole Party, the whole army, the youth and children."

Parting from him, we vow:

To continue to devote all our strength to the realization of the lofty ideal of socialism and communism that he has set for our working class and people, so as to achieve prosperity for our country and happiness for our compatriots.

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President HO CHI MINH gave constant attention, and took great pains to build our Party into a firm united bloc. He said: "The strength of the Party lies in its unity." He was the incarnation of national unity, of North — South brotherhood. He said: "Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success." He always advised us to preserve and enhance our traditions of unity and our love for our compatriots and comrades.

Parting from him, we vow:

To strive to preserve the unity of the Party as we would the apple of our eyes, to increase the fighting strength of the Party, the core of the national united bloc, to ensure total victory for the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese working class and nation.

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President HO CHI MINH was a lofty symbol of genuine patriotism closely combined with proletarian internationalism. His heart and mind were dedicated both to the Vietnamese nation, and to the proletariat and the oppressed peoples in the whole world. As a faithful disciple of Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin, President HO CHI MINH was not only a great patriot, but also an outstanding fighter in the international communist movement and the national liberation movement of the 20th century. President HO CHI MINH often taught us to preserve international solidarity, for the great cause of the Vietnamese revolution and for our lofty duty to the world revolution.

Parting from him, we vow:

To constantly enhance the pure internationalist sentiments felt by President HO CHI MINH, do our utmost to contribute to restoring and developing solidarity and unity in the socialist camp and among the fraternal parties on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism; to strengthen solidarity and friendship among the Indo-Chinese peoples; to extend wholehearted support to the revolutionary movement of other peoples, to make active contributions to the struggle of the world's peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

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The whole of the great life of President HO CHI MINH was a shining example of staunch revolutionary mettle, spirit of independence, deep love for the people, complete devotion to public interest and total selflessness, modesty and simplicity. President HO CHI MINH taught us: "Our Party should preserve absolute purity and prove worthy of its role as leader and very loyal servant of the people."

Parting from him, we vow:

All our life to learn from his virtues and style of work, foster revolutionary virtues, fearlessly face hardships and sacrifices, to temper ourselves into fighters loyal to the Party and the people, worthy of being his comrades, his disciples. Following his example, our entire people and youth pledge to do their best to steel themselves into new men, masters of their country, masters of the new society, and to carry his ever-victorious banner to the final goal.

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President HO CHI MINH is no more! But he has left us an extremely precious patrimony. This is the HO CHI MINH epoch, the most brilliant one in our nation's glorious history. This is the era of independence and freedom of the Fatherland, the era of socialism in our country.

All and each Vietnamese feel eternal gratitude to him for the immense good he did.

To President HO CHI MINH's manes, we vow to remain all our life faithful to him, to struggle with all our heart and energy, unite into an iron-like bloc, show dedication and resolve to fulfil our lofty duty to the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and the happiness of the people, and to make a worthy contribution to the revolutionary cause of the world's peoples.

President HO CHI MINH is no more! But he is always there to guide us. We feel his constant presence in our midst. For we continue to follow the path charted by him, we continue his great work. For he will live for ever with our rivers and mountains, his name and image is ever more deeply engraved in the heart and mind of each of us.

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Dear comrades and compatriots,

Passing from among us, UNCLE HO has left a historic testament to our Party, to all compatriots and combatants in the two zones North and South. These are his ultimate recommendations, his sentiments towards, and his confidence in, the present and future generations.

Let us prove ourselves still worthier of him!

Let us contain our grief, struggle valiantly, resolutely march forward, overcome all obstacles and difficulties and be resolved to defeat the US aggressors completely, build socialism successfully, and fulfil the pledge of honour we are making in this sacred farewell to him!

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH, THE GREAT LEADER AND BELOVED TEACHER OF OUR PARTY AND PEOPLE, WILL LIVE FOR EVER!

President HO CHI MINH, the great leader of the Vietnamese working class and nation, an outstanding fighter of the international communist movement, will live for ever in the hearts of the Vietnamese people and the oppressed nations throughout the world!

All South Viet Nam Mourns President HO CHI MINH

THE news of the passing away of President HO CHI MINH, considered by all Vietnamese from North to South to be one of the greatest and finest national heroes of Viet Nam of all times, plunged the entire people in South Viet Nam — liberated areas as well as enemy-controlled regions — in deep mourning and sorrow.

Implementing the joint decision of the NFL, VNANDPF, PRG and Advisory Council on the organization of memorial ceremonies for our great and respected departed, moving rites were observed in his memory, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

In the liberated areas, a grand ceremony was organized on September 8, 1969 by the Central Committees of the NFL, VNANDPF, PRG and Advisory Council and attended by PRG President, Architect Huynh Tan Phat, and many leaders of political, administrative, military, religious, professional and mass organizations.

Many personalities took the floor, especially President Huynh Tan Phat, the heads of Youth, Peasants, TU, Women and Armed Forces delegations, expressing the deep affliction of the South Vietnamese people for this great national bereavement and their determination to bring to final victory the struggle against the US aggressors and their lackeys, for the total liberation of South Viet Nam and national reunification. The gathering swore to "turn sorrow into revolutionary deeds" to score bigger and bigger successes in production and the fighting.

Ceremonies were also held in administrative organs at all levels of the revolutionary power as well as in PLAF units, cadres' schools, workshops, hospitals, etc...

In all households, altars were erected in memory of the late president; everyone was in mourning. A peasant in the Mekong Delta said to a *Giai Phong* press correspondent, "My grand father, my father and myself roughed it before the revolution led by UNCLE HO. My family owes him the land we are tilling and our daily rice. Like all our fellow citizens, we eagerly looked forward to the day when UNCLE HO would come to the victorious South. Alas! Our dream will never materialize now. What a sorrow!"

In enemy-held areas, the inhabitants showed their respect, love and deep regret to President HO CHI MINH by various means. Hundreds of thousands of people keenly followed the broadcasts of the *Voice of Viet Nam* and *Giai Phong* radios.

In Saigon, which has borne the glorious name of HO CHI MINH for nearly a quarter of a century, after announcement by Hanoi Radio the President's illness was the burning topic of conversation throughout Saigon, Western agencies reported. Flouting policemen, people crowded the offices of *AFP*, the only Western agency having a correspondent in Hanoi, to get information about the President's condition. The following day, hand-written copies of the special communiqué on the President's death broadcast by the *Voice of Viet Nam* radio were circulated from hand to hand. NFL and PRG decisions on the organization of memorial ceremonies got quickly known among the masses. Western correspondents reported that many leaflets were seen in Saigon calling on the inhabitants to wear mourning for President HO CHI MINH, wax candles and joss-sticks were lit in his memory. Prayers were said in some pagodas. Setting censorship at defiance, legal newspapers carrying President HO CHI MINH's portraits sold like hot cakes.

In Da Nang as well as other towns, the news of the President's death spread like prairie fire and shocked the whole population.

At Cao Lanh (Mekong Delta) where lies the grave of the President's father, a patriot exiled about sixty years ago by the French colonialists, the *Giai Phong* press correspondent reported that the townsfolk had hoped that they would certainly have the honour of welcoming President HO CHI MINH after liberation of South Viet Nam. Now the President is no more. What a loss for them!

For twenty four years now, responding to President HO CHI MINH's call, South Viet Nam has taken up arms and made the loftiest sacrifice to defend the national independence wrested by the great patriots from the hands of the Japanese fascists.

In the first resistance war, this song was very popular in South Viet Nam:

"The colonialists must be ousted for us to welcome our Uncle!

Now all our fellow-countrymen in the South are sorry that their cherished will never be fulfilled and they are more than ever resolved to make the aggressors and quislings pay more dearly for this frustration.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Hanoi

ON his arrival in Hanoi on September 7, 1969 with his wife, the Head of State of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, made the following statement:

"I am coming to Hanoi at the head of a national delegation of Cambodia to offer our heartfelt condolences to our Vietnamese brothers and show that the Khmer people share their national mourning. Their bereavement is also ours as well as that of all the countries and all the peoples cherishing independence, justice and dignity.

"President HO CHI MINH was and will remain in contemporary history the pure symbol of patriotism. His whole life is an example of courage and abnegation in service of the noblest cause. But we must also express our admiration for his deep faith in the destiny of his country and in the future of mankind. In our heartless world, he gave us as well as to many other peoples the reasons for hope.

"I wish to pay to the illustrious deceased the homage of our gratitude since he was the great architect of the rapprochement, then of the Viet Nam-Khmer friendship and solidarity. My boundless regret is not having been able to meet him before his death, but today I mean to lead the delegation of Cambodia and to pay with deep emotion my last respects to the memory of the marvellous Vietnamese leader who now is in the pantheon of the heroes of all the Indochinese peoples and all the Asian peoples.

"This moment when I land on the glorious capital of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, allow me to express to you the admiration of Cambodia and her people for your heroic and victorious resistance against the US aggressors and for remarkable reconstruction of your country devastated by bombardments. I also wish to reaffirm our unreserved support to the just and legitimate position of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam for the restoration of peace (particularly the total and unconditional withdrawal of the US forces and other foreign forces from South Viet Nam). This support to our Vietnamese brothers will never change.

"Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency the Acting President of the Republic, His Excellency Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, the authorities and the valiant Vietnamese people for their so fraternal welcome. We can once again feel their friendly sentiments which illustrate so vividly the solidarity between our two countries."

During his stay in Hanoi, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had talks with Prime Minister Pham Van Dong who called on him to thank him on behalf of the DRVN government and people and to acquaint him with the development of the national resistance to US aggression and the determination of the Vietnamese people to fight to the end for their sacred national rights while remaining deeply attached to peace. The Premier reaffirmed the DRVN government's inalterable respect for the independence, neutrality, sovereignty, political regime and unity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, recognition and undertaking to respect the integrity of Cambodia in her present borders. He extolled the friendly relations and militant solidarity between the two peoples — an extremely clearsighted policy mapped out by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and late President Ho Chi Minh conforming to the supreme interests of both countries.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and his party left Hanoi on September 10, 1969. Before his departure he made the following statement:

"It was a great honour and an occasion of intense emotion for me and the Khmer national delegation to come to this great capital of the DRVN, to share with the glorious Vietnamese people their grief and participate in the historical days and in the moving ceremony to the memory of the august and venerated deceased—President HO CHI MINH.

"We have been upset by the fervour of a whole nation, a whole people from the North to the South in whose hearts will live for ever the great hero of the resistance and the liberation of Viet Nam. I would like our Vietnamese brothers to know that President HO CHI MINH will also continue to live in the hearts of all the Khmers.

"I would like to express to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people our profound gratitude for their hospitality and the manifold and delicate attentions given us during our sojourn. They spell out the extent of your friendship and your esteem which we are proud of.

"My trustful and affectionate talks with His Excellency Premier Pham Van Dong as well as with the representatives of our friends and brothers in the South, President Nguyen Huu Tho as well as Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, accompanied by members of their delegations, have given me a profound satisfaction. I return to my country very comforted and confident in the future of our relations because our friendship, our solidarity as well as our mutual respect have been much reinforced. President HO CHI MINH, whom we all mourn, always wished for this reinforcement of our ties and it is in full compliance with his desire and in loyalty to his memory that we have just fulfilled his wish.

"In this spirit, I would like to reaffirm here the unreserved support of Cambodia to the just position of Viet Nam regarding the return of peace. I want to stress that this support goes to the four points of the DRVN which urges specifically that the United States government must withdraw its troops, military personnel and arms of all kinds from South Viet Nam, remove the military bases it has established there and put an end to its interference and aggression in South Viet Nam, that the affairs of South Viet Nam be settled by its people without foreign interference, that the reunification of Viet Nam by peaceful means be the affair of the people of the two zones free from outside interference. Our total support is also given to the principles and main content of the overall solution put forth by the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam, which we consider as the only principles capable of providing a basis to an agreement for an end to the war in South Viet Nam.

"While giving full support to this just position of Viet Nam we wish to show our loyalty to

(Continued page 11)

STATE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MEMORY WILL LIVE FOR EVER AMONG OUR PEOPLE

FOR nearly a week, our people as a whole from North to South, even in enemy-controlled areas, have been mourning President HO CHI MINH.

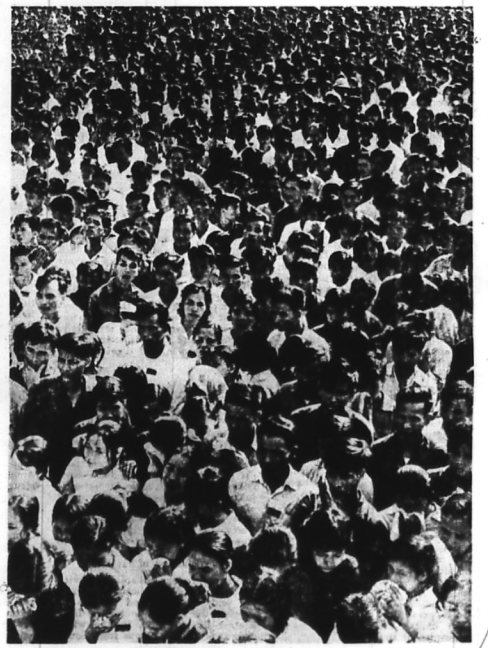
From everywhere, delegations after delegations came to Hanoi and paid their last tribute to the Man who incarnated the finest virtues of the Vietnamese nation, the national hero who initiated the most glorious period of our four-millenary history now lying in his crystal coffin, as virtuous, simple and close to us as in his lifetime. An endless flow of people, with tearful eyes, filed past his catafalque day and night and would never stop, if allowed.

On Sept. 9, 1969, the entire people bade him farewell. Besides leaders of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the state and political parties and mass organizations in the DRVN, the South Viet Nam and foreign delegations, only one hundred thousand people crowded Ba Dinh Square, Hanoi, but 31 million Vietnamese were listening to the live broadcast of the occasion, their minds turning to that corner of the country where he is sleeping his last sleep.

Emotion was at its height and nobody could control his tears when Comrade LE DUAN in the name of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party affirmed before history:

"Our nation, our people and our land have given birth to President HO CHI MINH, the great national hero, who, in turn, has covered them with glory" and when one heard President HO CHI MINH say in his testament that **"To the whole people, the whole Party, the whole army, to my nephews and nieces, the youth and children, I leave my boundless love."**

It is with the same feeling that, echoing the oath taken on September 2, 1945, the whole attendance and the 31 million of our people swore to continue his work to plant HO CHI MINH's ever-victorious banner on the final goal.



⊙ *Memorial ceremony for President HO CHI MINH at Ba Dinh Square, Hanoi, on Sept. 9, 1969. Leaders of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, state, political parties and mass organizations in the DRVN, South Viet Nam delegations and foreign delegations on the reviewing stand.*

⊙ *The attendance swear to continue the work left by the President* (Left).

⊙ *Comrade LE DUAN, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, delivering the funeral oration* (Below).

⊙ *Part of the crowd.*

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FROM ABROAD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Hereunder are excerpts of a number of messages of condolence received in Hanoi these last few days. It is materially impossible for us to publish all the one thousand-odd messages sent from 94 countries from September 5 to 8, 1969 by leaders of Communist and Workrs' Parties, States, Governments and mass organisations. The messages which are not reproduced here include those of leaders of all other socialist countries; leaders of Asian states: President of the **People's Republic of South Yemen** *Salem Rabayee Ali, President of the* **Yemeni Arab Republic** *Al Iriani, President of* **India** *V.V. Giri, President of* **Burma** *Ne Win, President of* **Pakistan** *Agha Mohamed Khan, Prime Minister of* **Ceylon** *Senanayake, Prime Minister of* **Afghanistan** *Nour Ahmed Etemadi, Prime Minister of* **Nepal** *Kisti Nidhi Bista; leaders of African states: President of the* **Democratic Republic of Sudan** *G.M. Nimeri, Head of State of* **Congo (B)** *Marien N'Gouabi, President of* **Tanzania** *J.Nyerere, Head of State of* **Mali** *Moussa Traore, President of* **Mauritania** *Moktar Ould Daddah, President of* **Zambia** *K. Kaunda, King of* **Morocco** *Hassan II, Emperor of* **Ethiopia** *Haile Selassie, President of* **Tunisia** *H. Bourguiba; leaders of European states: President of the* **French Republic** *Georges Pompidou, King of* **Sweden** *Gustaf Adolf President of* **Yugoslavia** *J.B. Tito; of the Communist Parties of Great Britain, United States of America, West Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Chile, Columbia, South Africa, the Labour Party of Switzerland...; of mass organizations: World Federation of Trade Unions, World Federation of Democratic Youth, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Peace Council, International Association of Journalists, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Red Cross, Organization of Solidarity of African and Latin American Peoples...*

MESSAGE FROM USSR PARTY AND STATE LEADERS

UNDER Comrade HO CHI MINH's leadership, the August Revolution succeeded, and led to the birth of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the first socialist State in South-East Asia. Inspired by President HO CHI MINH, the Vietnamese people duly struck back at the imperialist aggression against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and started a powerful struggle against the intervention by the US and its allies, for the liberation of the South.

The great energy, iron will, courage and staunchness, simplicity and benevolence of Comrade HO CHI MINH commanded the profound love and esteem of the Vietnamese people, the Soviet people and world Communists and progressives.

The Soviet Communists and the entire Soviet people highly value the tireless efforts of Comrade HO CHI MINH for the development of the fraternal friendship between the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, between the Soviet and Vietnamese peoples. The Soviet people will for ever bear in mind the bright image of Comrade HO CHI MINH, the staunch Marxist-Leninist, the faithful friend of our Party and country.

MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

UPHOLDING proletarian internationalism, President HO CHI MINH actively supported the revolutionary struggles of the proletariat of all countries and of all oppressed peoples and nations. In the years when the Chinese people were carrying out the national-democratic revolution, he came to China several times, shared weal and woe with the Chinese people, fought shoulder to shoulder with them and fostered profound proletarian feelings with the Chinese Communist Party. After the victory of the Chinese and Vietnamese revolutions, he worked untiringly for the strengthening and developing of the fraternal friendship and militant solidarity between the Chinese and Vietnamese peoples. This friendship and solidarity between our two peoples forged through protracted fighting can stand any test.

President HO CHI MINH unfortunately passed away at the crucial moment when the Vietnamese people's war against US aggression and for national salvation is about to win final victory. This is a great loss for the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Vietnamese people and also a great loss for the anti-US cause of the Chinese people and all peoples of the world.

MESSAGE FROM KOREAN PARTY AND STATE LEADERS

COMRADE HO CHI MINH did all he could to strengthen and develop the militant friendship and solidarity between the Parties and Governments and peoples of Korea and Viet Nam in the common struggle against imperialism headed by US imperialism and for the triumph of the cause of socialism and became an intimate friend of the Korean people.

For his brilliant achievements Comrade HO CHI MINH enjoyed the deep trust and respect of the Vietnamese people, the Korean people and the progressive peoples of the whole world.

The passing away of Comrade HO CHI MINH is a great loss not only for the Vietnamese people but also for the peoples of the socialist countries and revolutionary peoples of the whole world.

MESSAGE FROM CUBAN PARTY AND STATE LEADERS

WE are deeply moved at the loss of a fighter who struggled indomitably for the independence of the Vietnamese people, for the cause of socialism and for the right of all the oppressed peoples to be masters of their own destiny.

His life is a shining example of the noblest revolutionary and human virtues. Hardly is there any other leaders who, in moments of trial, show such an exceptional clearsightedness, calmness, courage, abnegation, energy and bravery. Never before has there been in such a narrow land and in such a short period of time such a decisive fight for mankind as that conducted by Comrade HO CHI MINH against the US imperialists and their lackeys in Viet Nam, an impregnable fortress of the revolutionary struggle in the world, a noble example of sacrifice, heroism and dignity.

MESSAGE FROM THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

THE French Communist Party with great emotion pays respects to the memory of the venerated leader of the heroic Vietnamese people whose whole life has been associated with the struggle for national independence and socialism, founder of the Indo-Chinese Communist Party—now the Viet Nam Workers' Party—President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, a delegate to the Tours Congress who participated in the ounding of our Party.

We reaffirm our full solidarity with the struggle of the Vietnamese people and our stiffened resolve to support the latter's victorious fight against US aggression, for the withdrawal of the US troops from South Viet Nam and for the success of the Paris Conference.

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF JAPAN

THE Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan pays tribute to the revolutionary achievements that can be attributed to the career of Comrade HO CHI MINH, the best son of the Vietnamese working class and the people of Viet Nam and outstanding activist in the international communist movement. At the same time it is convinced that the heroic people of Viet Nam will inherit Comrade HO CHI MINH's undaunted revolutionary will and further close their ranks, so that they may achieve progress in the socialist revolution and socialist construction in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and bring to victory their struggle against US imperialism and for national salvation.

MESSAGE FROM ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

IT is with great sorrow and acute pain that we send this message on the demise of Comrade HO CHI MINH. In our country, millions of communists, democrats, women and youths, workers, intellectuals and peasants mourn and weep for the lost comrade, the heroic leader of a heroic people, who has become the symbol of the highest values of contemporary mankind.

The name and heroic figure of HO CHI MINH have entered each house of our country and filled the streets and public squares, factories, schools, fields, wherever people are struggling against injustice and exploitation, for peace and freedom; they inspire at every moment the fight waged by our people on your side to put an end to the imperialist aggression against your land.

MESSAGE FROM CAMBODIAN HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH has gone down in the history of the Indo-Chinese peoples and all peoples in Asia, Africa and Latin America as the symbol of patriotic struggle for national independence.

Venerated by his people, admired by friends and respected by foes, he will remain one of the noblest statesmen and popular leaders of this century. Fate has not ordained President HO CHI MINH to see the crowning of his efforts in a whole life dedicated to the liberation of his Fatherland. But his example will live for ever in the hearts of all those in the world who have faith in the cause of justice, independence and peace.

We bow our head in respect before the great deceased and pay homage to his memory. Cambodia will never forget his friendship and profound desire to unceasingly strengthen the Khmer-Viet Nam solidarity.

MESSAGE FROM KING OF LAOS SRI SVANG VATTHANA

THE passing away of President HO CHI MINH, national hero and eminent statesman, is an enormous loss for the people of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and also a profound grief for me.

MESSAGE FROM PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, CHAIRMAN OF THE *NEO LAO HAKSAT* CENTRAL COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH always showed great concern for the Laotian people's struggle for national salvation and endeavoured to preserve and develop the solidarity between the two peoples, thus contributing to the present great and glorious successes of the Laotian people's struggle, for national salvation.

President HO CHI MINH's death is a great loss for the Government, Fatherland Front and people of Viet Nam. The Laotian people have lost their dearest comrade-in-arms, an experienced veteran revolutionary fighter.

MESSAGE FROM HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE ALGERIAN DEMOCRATIC AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

TO the whole mankind, President HO CHI MINH was first of all an unremitting activist and a staunch fighter having dedicated all his life to the struggle for the liberation of man and for dignity and justice. With the spirit of self-denial for the just cause, President HO CHI MINH will live for ever in the hearts of the peoples. He was the highest embodiment of courage and virtue and the architect of the Vietnamese people's unity for self-liberation.

MESSAGE FROM UAR PRESIDENT G.A. NASSER

NO doubt the demise of this great hero who devoted his life to the defence of the freedom of his people and carried the torch of liberation in his country is a great loss for Viet Nam and the Vietnamese people.

(Continued page 9)

WIDESPREAD MOURNING FOR PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

THE news of President HO CHI MINH's death came as a great shock to millions throughout the world.

Party central committees and governments of all socialist countries, heads of state and government of many other countries sent condolences to the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government and delegations to Hanoi to attend President HO CHI MINH's funeral.

IN the socialist countries, all press agencies and radios released special announcements on President HO CHI MINH's death; all newspapers carried black-framed portraits of the President and praised him as the organizer of the successful struggle of the Vietnamese people, and an eminent fighter of the world communist and workers' movement; Party and state leaders went to the DRVN embassies to pay their last homage to President HO CHI MINH and express their deep sympathy to the Viet Nam Workers' Party and people.

Many socialist countries observed national mourning in his memory:

The **Korean** Labour Party and Korean Government kept Sept. 10 as official day of national mourning. On that day, offices, workshops, enterprises, schools and private houses displayed flags at half-mast and all entertainments were cancelled.

The Revolutionary Government of **Cuba** decreed a seven-day official mourning (from Sept. 4 to 10) with Sept. 10 as day of national mourning. On the evening of Sept. 6 Havana TV altered its regular program to screen Vietnamese films and broadcast documents and articles on President HO CHI MINH.

The Communist Party, National Assembly and Government of the People's Republic of **Bulgaria** observed Sept. 10 as national mourning day. An enterprise and a creche were named afterPresident HO CHI MINH.

The Communist Party and Government of **Rumania** took Sept. 9 as national mourning day, on which day flags were flown at half-mast over Party and administrative buildings and amusements put off.

The United Workers' Party and Government of **Poland** decreed Sept.9 as national mourning day. A big black-framed portrait of President HO CHI MINH was hung above the entrance to the building of the Polish United Workers' Party Central Committee.

In the **Soviet Union**, flags were hoisted at half-mast in Moscow, Leningrad, capital cities of Federal Republics and other cities on Sept.9. A new square in Moscow will bear the name of President HO CHI MINH which was also given to a Teachers' College in Irkoustsk and a newly-built ship.

In the Peoples' Republic of **China**, on Sept.8, all administrative offices, mass' organization buildings, army units, factories, mines, enterprises, people's communes, schools, ships, flew flags at half-mast on Sept.9. Over 100,000 Pekinese came to the DRVN embassy to pay their last tribute to President HO CHI MINH.

In socialist countries, memorial ceremonies were held under the aegis of mass organizations. Thus in Cuba, the Central Committee of the Cuban Women's Federation erected an altar in the large hall of its building for women's representatives to come and pay their last homage to President HO CHI MINH.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's death aroused the greatest emotion in many nationalist countries.

The Kingdom of **Cambodia** observed Sept.5 as national mourning day. On that day a ceremony was held at the State Palace in memory of President HO CHI MINH under the patronage of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk; all public buildings hoisted flags at half-mast; all receptions and amusements were suspended.

On decision of the Central Committee of the **Lao** Patriotic Front, 3 days of national mourning were kept in the liberated areas of Laos.

The governments of the Democratic and People's Republic of **Algeria**, of the Arab Republic of **Syria** and of the People's Republic of **South Yemen** also decreed a three-day mourning. In Algiers a high street has been named after President HO CHI MINH.

The Democratic Party of **Guinea** issued a communique advising all Party members to wear mourning on the occasion of President HO CHI MINH's death and announcing Sept. 5 as national mourning day.

In **Congo (B)**, mourning was observed in one day.

The Government of **India** decreed one-day mourning (Sept. 4, in Kerela and West Bengal).

In the **UAR**, the state leaders, the diplomatic corps, representatives of national liberation movements of Arab and African peoples in Cairo, the president of the liberation movement of Palestine Nasser Arafat, the secretary general of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization Youssef El Sebai came to the DRVN embassy in Cairo to pay their last tribute to President HO CHI MINH.

In **Japan**, ceremonies in memory of the President took place in Tokyo, Kyoto and many other cities and localities. On Sept. 6, the Anti-Japan-US Security Treaty Committee, the "Support-Vietnamese People" Committee, the Japan-Viet Nam Friendship Association launched in Tokyo a campaign in support of Viet Nam in memory of President HO CHI MINH.

* * *

ALL the big **press agencies** in capitalist countries announced President HO CHI MINH's death at the beginning of their transmissions and reproduced the information and communiques released by *Viet Nam News Agency*.

In Paris, the announcement was made on Sept. 4 by information agencies, the radio and television. French newspapers described President HO CHI MINH as a legendary personality respected by all the Vietnamese people, a man of iron will, a stalwart patriot, a veteran, persevering and staunch combatant who devoted all his life to struggle.

Many American papers frontpaged in banner headlines the news of President HO CHI MINH's death. The *International Herald Tribune* devoted all its first page and many columns of its last page to his portrait and articles about him.

Messages of Condolence...

(Continued from page 8)

MESSAGE FROM SYRIAN PRESIDENT Dr NUREDDIN ATASSI

I am deeply grieved at the immense loss suffered by the friendly Vietnamese people in the death of their great leader and genial militant—President HO CHI MINH. With his long struggle, the great deceased has blazed the trail for all peoples aspiring to freedom, independence and a life of dignity and will remain after his death a beacon guiding all revolutionaries in the world.

MESSAGE FROM GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE

WE bow religiously before the remains of an outstanding Head of State who tirelessly dedicated all his life to the freedom and unification in honour of his country. Eminent and courageous, Brother HO CHI MINH was a fine example to the peoples in Asia and Africa in their noble struggle against imperialism and new colonialism.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk...

(Continued from page 5)

the sacred principles which will remain ours in all circumstances, principles embodied in the United Nations Charter and which must be respected by all nations that place right above force. May we therefore hope that the Viet Nam cause enjoy everywhere in the world an ever greater support and that the United States give up a policy disastrous to it and to all other countries.

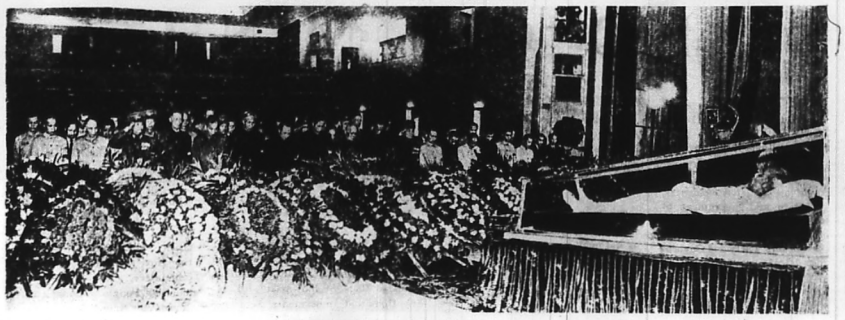
"Finally, I wish to express my great anticipated pleasure in my great and admired friend, His Excellency Pham Van Dong's coming state visit to Cambodia where our people will be happy to reserve for him the warmest welcome. This visit, I am convinced, will make a new and very important contribution to the Khmer – Vietnamese fraternal solidarity.

"We are taking leave of you, but we remain beside you and are with you by thought and by heart. Please accept our ardent wishes for your victory, your prosperity and your happiness.

"Long live the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam!

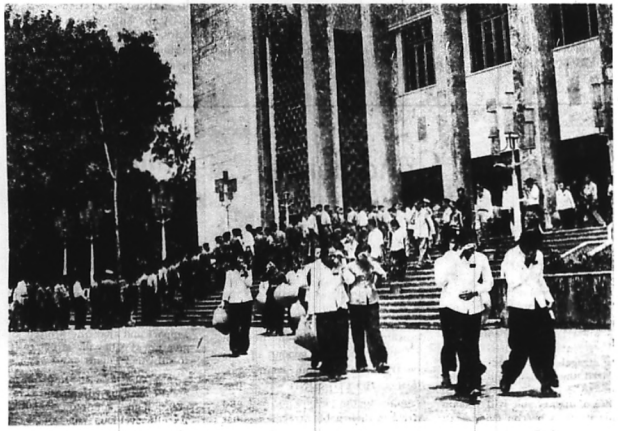
"Long live the Khmer – Vietnamese friendship!"

STATE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH



The delegation of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party pays its last tribute to President HO CHI MINH.

South Viet Nam general delegation. In the front row (left to right): *Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam NFL (5th) and Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Alliance of the National, Democratic and Peace Forces (6th).*



Delegates of combat units and work-teams and of various sections of the people flocking to Ba Dinh Hall where President HO CHI MINH is lying in state.

SOUTH VIET NAM TURNS SORROW INTO REVOLUTIONARY DEEDS

From September 4 to 7, 1969

North of Saigon:

- ⊙ *2,800 Enemy Troops Put out of Action*
- ⊙ *A Regimental CP, 2 Puppet Battalions and 5 US Companies Wiped Out or Decimated.*
- ⊙ *177 Tanks and Armoured Cars Destroyed, 18 Aircraft Downed.*

Southwest of Saigon:

A US Camp, a Battalion CP and a Puppet Company Hit; 210 Enemy Casualties.

Da Nang:

9 Enemy Positions Bombarded or Stormed by PLAF Men, 2 Big Depots of Bombs and Supplies Blotted Out by Fire.

ALL South Viet Nam is resolved to punish more severely the aggressors and quislings. Instead of taking the sting from the patriots, the immense sorrow caused by President Ho Chi Minh's death has considerably strengthened their forces. Giai Phong *Press Agency reported that from September 4 to September 8, first day of the truce ordered by the PRG, big successes were recorded all over South Viet Nam.*

The most fierce battles took place on the Saigon and Da Nang fronts under the form of PLAF artillery and infantry actions against enemy CPs, encampments, logistic depots, and ambushes.

North of Saigon, in Binh Long province (capital: Hon Quan, 97 km north of Saigon) the PLAF knocked out 1,100 enemy troops, 3 choppers, and 165 tanks and armoured cars (on Highway No 13 between Chon Thanh and Hon Quan) most of them belonging to US Armoured Regiment 11.

This sector was the site of two major battles: the first was an onset on the CP of Regiment 9, puppet Infantry Division 5 at Chon Thanh (70 km north of Saigon) on Sept. 5, in which 500 enemy soldiers were disabled and 20 vehicles set ablaze; the CP sustained heavy damage. The second was an ambush on Sept. 6 in a locality between Chon Thanh and Hon Quan where a motorized column of US Armoured Regiment 11 had 50 vehicles wrecked.

Northwest of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, the PLAF wiped out in 4 days over 880 adversary troops including 820 GIs: 5 US companies written off the musterroll, 12 military vehicles and 8 cannons destroyed, 15 aircraft downed and 4 vessels sunk.

The biggest operation in this sector was the smashing raid on a US camp at Suoi Day, 97 km northwest of Saigon (night of Sept. 5): 5 US companies, 500 GIs, 7 vehicles, 8 cannons and mortars put out of action, 6 choppers grounded.

North-northeast of Saigon, in Phuoc Long province, on Sept. 4 and 5, PLAF men stormed a subsector CP at Phuoc Binh provincial capital, 120 km from Saigon, a gun position and a "Special Forces" camp, inflicting 600 casualties. A "Special Forces" battalion was struck off the strength and a puppet battalion decimated.

Thus in the 3 provinces north of Saigon, the PLAF wiped out in 4 days 2,800 enemy soldiers, 2 battalions and 5 companies, destroyed 177 military vehicles, mostly tanks and amoured cars, downed 18 aircraft, sank 4 vessels, and levelled down a regimental CP.

West of Saigon, the patriots hammered at a US camp at My Quy Dong, 55km west-northwest of Saigon (Sept. 6), disabled 150 GIs and bu nt 2 tanks.

In Binh Chanh region, 18km southwest of Saigon, the PLAF exacted 60 casualties from the enemy and sent 2 vessels to the bottom.

On Da Nang front, the patriots assaulted 9 US positions in the city defended by a US marine division (night of Sept. 5). The targets hit include a US marine camp (south of the city), a big depot of US Navy (east), a bomb dump and a logistic depot near the HQ of puppet First Army Corps in the city.

Western agencies reported that at least over 100 GIs and puppet soldiers had been killed or wounded, 2 storehouses set on fire, destroying a big quantity of bombs and 170 big cold storages of supplies for GIs.

In the Western High Plateaux (night of Sept 3), a battalion CP and 2 companies of puppet Regiment 45 near Ban Me Thuot, 250km northeast of Saigon, were taken to task: 200 enemy casualties.

A recoilless-gun guerilla unit of Long An province.

DRVN Recognizes Libyan Arab Republic

ON September 6, 1969, Premier Pham Van Dong sent a telegram to Mr. Abu Shweirib, President of the Revolutionary Council of the Libyan Arab Republic, notifying him of the recognition of the Libyan Arab Republic by the DRVN Government.

US Defence Secretary's Slander Refuted

ON September 2, 1969, US Defence Secretary Melvin Laird once again slandered the Government of the DRVN in connection with US pilots captured in North Viet Nam.

In his Sept. 6 statement, the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry pointed out that obviously, this US smear campaign designed to cover up the innumerable crimes committed by the American imperialists in Viet Nam, especially the savage massacres and tortures inflicted by US troops on captured Vietnamese fighters and civilians. It is also aimed at diverting the attention of the American public which is urging the Nixon administration to take practical measures to put an immediate end to the war of aggression in Viet Nam and quickly bring American youths home.

The US pilots now detained in North Viet Nam are guilty of criminal air attacks against the DRVN on orders of the US government and were caught red-handed. When acceding to the 1949 Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners-of-war, the DRVN clearly made a reservation on Article 85:

"The DRVN declared that war prisoners prosecuted and tried for their war crimes or grave crimes against humanity, in accordance with the principles laid down by the Nuremberg tribunal, are not entitled to benefit from the provisions of this convention as stipulated by Article 85."

These US pilots lie within the competence of the laws now in force in the DRVN, an independent and sovereign country, the DRVN Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Though these men have perpetrated crimes against the Vietnamese people, the Government of the DRVN has always treated them humanely, and allowed them to exchange postcards with, and receive parcels from, their families; the wounded have been given medical care.

The Government of the DRVN concurs with the South Viet Nam NFL and the Provisionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on proposed discussion by all parties of the release of armymen captured during the war as put forth in the overall solution for the Viet Nam question. The Nixon administration must bear full responsibility for the delay in settling this matter as well as the whole Viet Nam issue, the spokesman emphasized.

STATE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH

Pioneers bidding farewell to UNCLE HO.

Delegates of Western High Plateaux ethnic minorities paying their last homage to President HO CHI MINH.

During the memorial ceremony for the President on Sept 9, 1969: Crowds listening to live broadcast at a square.

Index 1262—Printed in Hanoi — Signed for printing on September 13, 1969